

Claims

What is Claimed is:

- 1 1. A user interactive display computer system, provided
2 by a seller of computer components to purchasers of
3 computer systems, for configuring computer systems
4 including said computer components comprising:
5 means for prompting each of a plurality of said
6 system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data
7 entries, each of said entries relative to the data
8 processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer
9 systems;
10 means for applying a set of purchaser business rules
11 to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce
12 a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;
13 means for allocating said computer components to the
14 computer system of each purchaser based upon said system
15 needs solution for the purchaser;
16 means for tracking the quantities of each of said
17 computer components thereby allocated to computer systems
18 sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;
19 means for applying a set of seller business rules to
20 the tracked quantities of each of said computer
21 components to produce a set of optimized quantities for
22 each of said computer components based on the seller's
23 business needs; and
24 means for offering to selected ones of said
25 purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected
26 ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile
27 said purchasers' system needs solutions with said
28 optimized quantities of said components based upon the
29 seller's business needs.

1 2. The user interactive computer display system of
 2 claim 1 wherein said means for offering to purchasers
 3 modifications in quantities of selected allocated
 4 components includes means for enabling the seller to
 5 offer to said purchasers financial incentives for
 6 accepting said modifications.

1 3. The user interactive computer display system of
 2 claim 1 wherein said means for offering to purchasers
 3 modifications in quantities of selected allocated
 4 components includes:
 5 means for providing a set of business rules for
 6 reconciling said purchasers' system needs with said
 7 optimized quantities; and
 8 means for automatically offering said purchasers
 9 financial incentives based upon said rules for
 10 reconciling.

1 3. The user interactive computer display system of
 2 claim 1 further including means for dynamically modifying
 3 said set of seller business rules.

1 4. The user interactive computer display system of
 2 claim 1 further including means for dynamically modifying
 3 said set of business rules for reconciling.

1 5. The user interactive computer display system of
 2 claim 1 wherein said computer systems being configured
 3 are network systems.

7. In a user interactive display computer process, provided by a seller of computer components to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring computer systems including said computer components, steps comprising:

- prompting each of a plurality of said system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data entries, each of said entries relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer systems;
- applying a set of purchaser business rules to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;
- allocating said computer components to the computer system of each purchaser based upon said system needs solution for the purchaser;
- tracking the quantities of each of said computer components thereby allocated to computer systems sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;
- applying a set of seller business rules to the tracked quantities of each of said computer components to produce a set of optimized quantities for each of said computer components based on the seller's business needs;
- and
- offering to selected ones of said purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs solutions with said optimized quantities of said components based upon the seller's business needs.

1 ~~8~~⁷. The process of claim ~~7~~⁶ wherein said step of offering
 2 to purchasers modifications in quantities of selected
 3 allocated components is carried out by first enabling the
 4 seller to offer to said purchasers financial incentives
 5 for accepting said modifications.

1 9. The process of claim 7 wherein said step of offering
 2 to purchasers modifications in quantities of selected
 3 allocated components is carried out by the steps of:
 4 providing a set of business rules for reconciling
 5 said purchasers' system needs with said optimized
 6 quantities; and
 7 automatically offering said purchasers financial
 8 incentives based upon said rules for reconciling.

1 ~~10~~⁹. The process of claim ~~7~~⁶ wherein said set of seller
 2 business rules may be dynamically modified.

1 ~~11~~⁹. The process of claim ~~7~~⁶ wherein said set of business
 2 rules for reconciling may be dynamically modified.

1 ~~12~~¹⁰. The process of claim ~~7~~⁶ wherein said computer systems
 2 being configured are network systems.

1 ~~13~~¹². A computer program having program code included on a
 2 computer readable medium operable in a user interactive
 3 display computer system provided by a seller of computer
 4 components to purchasers of computer systems, for
 5 configuring computer systems including said computer
 6 components comprising:
 7 means for prompting each of a plurality of said
 8 system purchasers to make a sequence of interactive data
 9 entries, each of said entries relative to the data

10 processing needs of the purchaser of one of said computer
11 systems;

12 means for applying a set of purchaser business rules
13 to the data entries of each of said purchasers to produce
14 a system needs solution for each of said purchasers;

15 means for allocating said computer components to the
16 computer system of each purchaser based upon said system
17 needs solution for the purchaser;

18 means for tracking the quantities of each of said
19 computer components thereby allocated to computer systems
20 sold by said seller to all of said purchasers;

21 means for applying a set of seller business rules to
22 the tracked quantities of each of said computer
23 components to produce a set of optimized quantities for
24 each of said computer components based on the seller's
25 business needs; and

26 means for offering to selected ones of said
27 purchasers modifications in the quantities of selected
28 ones of said allocated components to thereby reconcile
29 said purchasers' system needs solutions with said
30 optimized quantities of said components based upon the
31 seller's business needs.

12 14. The computer program of claim 13 wherein said means
2 for offering to purchasers modifications in quantities of
3 selected allocated components includes means for enabling
4 the seller to offer to said purchasers financial
5 incentives for accepting said modifications.

1 15. The computer program of claim 13 wherein said means
2 for offering to purchasers modifications in quantities of
3 selected allocated components includes:

4 means for providing a set of business rules for
 5 reconciling said purchasers' system needs with said
 6 optimized quantities; and
 7 means for automatically offering said purchasers
 8 financial incentives based upon said rules for
 9 ~~reconciling.~~

1 ¹³16. The computer program of claim ¹¹13 further including
 2 means for dynamically modifying said set of seller
 3 business rules.

1 ¹⁴17. The computer program of claim ¹¹13 further including
 2 means for dynamically modifying said set of business
 3 rules for reconciling.

1 ¹⁵18. The computer program of claim ¹¹13 wherein said
 2 computer systems being configured are network systems.

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